



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations Week Ending: July 30, 2005

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Newport Milestones/Facts

Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Richard Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including last two lots of VX produced at Newport
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif. to design, construct and operate NECDF
- 2000: Construction began
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5, 2005

Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 28,484 pounds of chemical agent VX
(approximately 3,381 gallons)

Activities in past week: The week of July 25th a Hazard Assessment Team was on site to conduct an evaluation of the plant design and operational procedures given that hydrolysate is flammable. The team will reconvene this week to complete their evaluation. Preparations are being made for a Demonstration of Safe Operations that will take place prior to restarting the facility. The Demonstration of Safe Operations is scheduled for August 9th and 10th.

Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety—from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage, to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

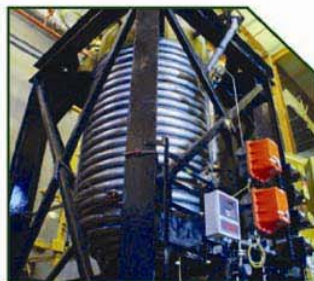
- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- External oversight agencies provide oversight to ensure all processes and procedures are performed in a safe manner.
- During start-up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- A plant shutdown is planned approximately 75 days after beginning agent destruction operations to conduct a thorough evaluation of systems performance.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.



Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent
Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

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Outreach Office Hours:
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Monday - Friday
(Evening hours available
by appointment)

Newport stockpile
consists of:



Liquid chemical
agent VX housed in
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW